

501(c)(4) organizations to participate fully in the political life of the country. So it will not just be that nicely drawn narrow category the gentleman identified, but I think we need to be concerned more broadly than that.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SKAGGS. I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, let me simply say I fully agree with everything that the gentleman has said with respect to this issue. In my view, what you have here is a case of the squeaky wheel getting the grease, which means that the Blues and a couple of other parties are being taken care of because they have raised legitimate objections about how this impacts them. But I think this Congress is remiss in not recognizing there are many other people who may not be as big, but whose proximity to them will be just as big because of the language, which ought not be in the law in the first place.

So I think this is a case here of this proposition being better than the situation that would exist without it, but not nearly as good as it ought to be, because it ought to include everybody who has a similar problem.

I would hope that, upon reflection, the Congress would recognize it has made a mistake in limiting it in the future and to correct it. But for now, I think even though I agree fully with the gentleman, I did not think that that objection would be sufficient to justify bringing down this entire proposition.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield further, the letter that I indicated from the Senate was dated November 17. It has been more than 3 months. It has been almost a month since the law went into effect. Does the gentleman from Colorado have in his possession a letter from any other organization indicating a failure to carry out a contractual obligation with the Federal Government because of this legislation?

Mr. SKAGGS. No.

Mr. THOMAS. Do you have a letter?

Mr. SKAGGS. Mr. Speaker, continuing my reservation, it has only been a couple of weeks since this law became effective. I think the gentleman assumes a level of alacrity across the country which is unrealistic in this respect.

Mr. Speaker, having made these points, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I would like to make inquiry, and I thank the gentleman from Louisiana and the gentleman from Wisconsin. I know that the work that was done was to assure that we did not shut the Government down. I think we need to accept that responsibility.

Can the gentleman help me as I try to answer some of the questions re-

garding this impact on my constituents? There is a section on page 10 that indicates a prohibition against no new grants and it lists health and human services, and particularly refers to National AIDS Program, homeless service grants. There is a whole litany, the youth gang substance abuse.

My inquiry is that this does not shut them down; what you are saying is that they cannot activate, and I want this to be my understanding, not put words in your mouth, they cannot activate any new grants, but they can carry on their business? Is that my understanding?

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I yield to the gentleman from Louisiana.

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman is correct. Actually it goes a little bit beyond that. They can actually engage in providing grants up to 75 percent of previous monthly levels. So the fact is they cannot only service old grants, but they can engage in current activity up to 75 percent of previous limits.

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This is a change put in the bill in just the last few minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. They can carry on current business and provide new grants at a 75-percent level that would include youth gangs, substance abuse, child welfare.

Mr. LIVINGSTON. There is a lengthy list, and we will make that a part of the RECORD.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I would appreciate that. Thank you very much.

Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to object, I noticed in reference to NASA, as the gentleman well knows, they are engaged now in a series of space explorations and research, and, in fact, were preparing for such during the Government shutdown. There seems to be on page 2931, and I have no problem with assisting any of our sister States, some transfer of dollars, \$10 million to Mississippi, but that is not going to impair any further, ongoing, present explorations that are proposed now for NASA in the coming months and impinge on any safety factors for NASA?

Mr. LIVINGSTON. If the gentleman would yield further, she is correct, and this measure will free up an additional \$40 million for NASA; so they are actually better off because of this provision.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to object, I am so concerned and I have two last questions.

There was an Executive order recently to deal with increased utilization of the Border Patrol coming from the State of Texas and obviously concerned with drug influx and other problems. The Department of Justice not being funded, do we have concern, or is there any way that that will not be negatively impacted, or are we in jeopardy?

Mr. LIVINGSTON. If the gentleman would yield further, I would advise the gentleman that the Department of Justice is funded at the conference level, and, in fact, most law enforcement authorities were already provided for in the targeted for appropriation under the bill that we passed early in January. So actually the Border Patrol would have been taken care of by the last bill.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. If we pass the CR, but as you have indicated, that is protected and covered?

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Not only covered through the term of this bill, but through the end of the fiscal year by virtue of what we did earlier.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, lastly there were several riders in the VA-HUD bill, and, of course, we do realize that even though we are concerned and want to make sure that the Government stays open, there are still levels of disagreement on many of these pieces of legislation and, obviously, the appropriation process. Are these riders still in this CR that we might have some disagreement, particularly relating to the environment and relating to HUD in particular?

Mr. LIVINGSTON. If the gentleman would yield, I would advise the gentleman that the VA-HUD bill is funded at the conference level, but under last year's terms and conditions. So the restrictions and guidance language in the conference report would not apply.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Would not be included?

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Right.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Louisiana. I think that we are all trying to move to the point of resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HEFLEY). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

There was no objection.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 2880, and that I may include tabular and extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

There was no objection.

THE BALANCED BUDGET DOWNPAYMENT ACT, 1

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the previous order of the House, I call up the bill (H.R. 2880) making appropriations for fiscal year 1996 to make a downpayment toward a balanced budget, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.